



# the Tarpaper

The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society



Volume: XVIII August 2006 ISSUE

## **AUGUST PROGRAM: What's in the Garden that May Hurt**

The topic for the August meeting will be “**What's in the garden that may hurt**” which includes venomous animals and poisonous plants. The speaker will be Dennis Mudge who has served ranches and farms for over twenty years as a Cooperative Extension Agent; first in 4-H with Cornell Cooperation Extension in New York, and then with the University of Florida Extension Service where he is now a Livestock and Natural Resources Agent in Orlando. Dennis holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from Cornell and a Master's in Animal Science. Along with this education, he combines his home farm experience with many years field experience in educating those involved in the horse industry. He is a popular conference speaker providing practical skills concerning toxic plants and livestock.



## **Oakland Nature Preserve Field Trip, July 8, 2006 Paul Eisenbrown**

We had a nice visit. It's always good to get out to some of our locally supported environmental centers such as this one. They are the true educators of all age groups.

Walking both the upland and the boardwalk to Lake Apopka, we looked at a lot of plants. At one point Jim Thomas came out and talked with us a few minutes about the history and future plans for the preserve. He stressed that they will be relying heavily



**Fungi**

*Photo by Bea Stein.*

on volunteers like the Tarflower Chapter members to help them out. At the end of our outing we pooled our

plant lists and provided one large list to the Oakland Nature Preserve so that they could compare it to their existing master list, in case we saw something not previously seen. Several of us spent a lot of e-mail time putting the list together. For those that haven't done this, it is a good way to learn plants and proper taxonomy.

Due to some hard rain showers prior to our trip, we were really treated to several varieties of unusually shaped and colorful fungi. None of us knew the See “Preserve” page 2.

## **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

**Paul Eisenbrown**

### **Wekiwa Springs State Park, August 5**

We'll check out some of the blooms in this varied habitat. Our meeting time is 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot just to the left after you pass the entrance kiosk. Bring plenty of water, dress for outdoors in Florida and also pack a lunch. If you so desire you can go swimming in the spring afterwards. Check out the state park website:

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/wekiwasprings/default.cfm>

### **Enchanted Forest, Titusville, Sunday, September 10**

Note the day change to a Sunday from our normal field trips day. Check out the websites:

<http://www.eelbrevard.com/eel/enchforest/>  
<http://www.nbbd.com/godo/ef/>

Call Paul Eisenbrown at 407-8151 for more information about field trips.



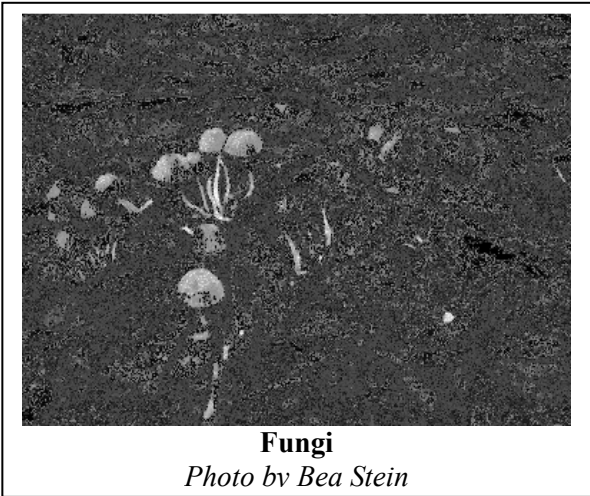
**Fungi**

*Photo by Bea Stein*

**Preserve continued from page 1.**

names but we thoroughly enjoyed the spectacles. Also, the Passionflowers were everywhere. We even tried the fruit, which tasted yummy!

Another part of field trips is getting better at learning plant ID. We were looking at a Clematis vine trying to determine which one it was. You can't just go by the pictures here. Chuck Roux pointed out the two leaf-like bracts on the peduncle of the flower which makes it *Clematis reticulata*. We read through some Wunderlin and Dr. Taylor descriptions, learning botany



**Fungi**

*Photo by Bea Stein*

terms like ebracteate. These vines also have unique fruit clusters. After getting home I pulled out my Wendy Zomlefer book for a little detail.

There are no petals on this flower. What you see are actually the sepals. Another help was the article in the latest *Palmetto* by Rufino Osorio on the terrestrial version of this plant, the Pine-hyacinth. So if you really want to learn, then join us on the next one.

It was a good day with good people. Thanks to those who helped put the trip together and to those that came to make it happen.



**Saltmarsh Mallow**

*Photo by Bea Stein*

**Time for Action Kevin Mulholland**

Yale University's School of Forestry & Environmental Studies has published *Americans and Climate Change: Closing the Gap Between Science and*

*Action, a Synthesis of Insights and Recommendations.*

The text can be downloaded from their website:

<http://www.environment.yale.edu/climate/>

*TIME FOR ACTION* addresses why the scientific consensus on climate change has not produced action in the U.S. commensurate with the threat. The Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies convened a remarkable group of leaders and thinkers from across our society to answer this timely question. Now you can read a synthesis of their insights and findings, including 39 recommendations for action, in the newly released book *Americans and Climate Change*. The Yale F&ES Project on Climate Change is now promoting implementation of the recommendations. Please visit the website above to learn more and to register to participate.

**Natives Can Be Pretty and then There's Harmony Jean Vasicek**

I was driving through Baldwin Park in Winter Park recently and noticed what a nice job they're doing with natives. This photo shows one of the many ponds loaded with pickerel weed, native grasses, cypress, slash pine, etc... There's too much lawn for me, but they're trying. I'd rather walk through Baldwin Park than Harmony.



**Baldwin Park**

*Photo by Jean Vasicek*

After our meeting a few months back about the Harmony development and their plans to create a wildlife environment, I decided to check it out. I took my dogs with me so they could play in the dog park, supposedly a real dog pleaser. My dog loves dog parks. He hated Harmony. He took one look at the treeless expanse of grass laid out before him and ran for the exit. What were they thinking? They should have invited a few dogs over for advice BEFORE they wasted money on several acres of grass.

Dogs want vegetation diversity NOT endless expanses of grass. If only they'd asked my dog Max. He would have told them that a good dog park has lots of creatures, bugs, lizards, frogs, AND WATER. Who would create a dog park with water on the OUTSIDE of the gate? See "Harmony" page 3.

**Harmony** continued from page 2.

Yeah, it's great for the owners that a dog shower is available for afterward, but what about during, while the dogs are playing. The dogs at Harmony are expected to run around on a blanket of grass with nothing to chase, no squirrels to terrify, and no insects to find. Then, after doing nothing at the park they're supposed to have a shower. Nope, Max says "give me water NOW, let me roll around in some mud for a while, give me some lizards to chase, a good ole fire hydrant to pee on, and THEN you can give me a shower and do whatever you want with me. But first, for crying out loud, let me have some fun!" Imagine how much more fun it would be if the bordering retention pond had been included on the inside of the dog park fencing instead of the outside. The dogs would have more fun and the threat of gators cruising the neighborhood would be significantly reduced.

We tried to salvage the long drive we'd taken to visit the native paradise and took a stroll down the butterfly trail which borders the gold course. The butterflies must have all been on vacation because we didn't see any. Or, perhaps the sea of society garlic canopied with crepe myrtles just wasn't enough to keep them around.

Since the butterfly trail didn't pan out, we went to look at some of the landscapes in the neighborhood. Although I'm not the hottest native plant expert, I do know the difference between a pigmy date palm and a sabal minor, one being native and the other most definitely not. Pigmy date palms are quite prevalent at Harmony, along with plenty

of crepe myrtle, and massive plantings of Indian Hawthorne. I was disappointed to see live oaks planted close to several front doors, of 2 story houses! I couldn't help wondering what was going to happen when those live oak limbs curl through those upper windows? I'm thinking the chain saws will be coming out and those homeowners will be hard pressed to keep them oiled and ready for all the cutting they'll be doing to keep those limbs from spending the night in their beds!

We ended up back at the dog park. I spoke with one of the homeowners as our dogs attempted to claw their way out of the dog park exit gate. She pointed to her yard and said that she'd chosen her plants from a list of 'natives' provided by the Harmony development committee. I mentioned that the plants on the list may have been native somewhere. They were just not native here. She was interested and seemed a little disappointed as she admitted that the list she'd been given may not have been a list of native plants. She had just assumed the plants on the list were good wildlife plants. I was surprised at her concern and realized that there were probably lots of people out there that want to do the 'right thing', but figuring out what's right is just plain difficult sometimes.

Harmony has a great concept, but it takes more than an idea. It takes knowledge and a community willing to work. What would have happened if FNPS had been involved during the initial development of Harmony? Is it too late?



Blazing Star



Stoke's Aster



Honeysuckle



Oakleaf Hydrangea



Wildflowers



Rare Aluminum Bird

Winter Park Honey  
the source for  
truly local honey

Jean the Bee Keeper  
407-363-9061

PO BOX 3556  
Winter Park, Florida 32790  
winterparkhoney.com

Hive Removal - Swarm Capture - Local Honey

**FUN BEE FACTS**

Swarm season usually occurs during the early spring although in Florida bees can swarm throughout the summer. Bees swarm because their current home has become too small. Prior to swarming bees create a new queen while starving the old queen. After the new swarm cells have been capped, the old queen, thinned for flight, leaves the hive with roughly half her kingdom in search of a new home.

**Local Native Nurseries**

**Biosphere Consulting Inc**  
(407) 656-8277  
14908 Tilden Rd  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

**B B Brown's Gardens**  
(352) 429-5566  
11490 Montevista Rd  
Clermont, FL 34711

**Green Images**  
(407) 568-1333  
1333 Taylor Creed Rd  
Christmas, FL

\$25 Individual - \$30 Family  
\$50 Non-Profit  
\$100 Business  
\$100 Supporter  
\$15 Full-time Student  
\$15 Library or School

Make Checks Payable to:  
FNPS  
Florida Native Plant Society  
P.O. Box 278  
Melbourne, FL 32902-0278  
Phone: 321-271-6702

**SOCIETY NEWS:**

**Chapter Meetings**

Chapter meetings are held the first Tuesday each month at **HARRY P. LEU GARDENS**, (1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando). The next meeting is **Tuesday, August 1** at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments 6:30-ish. See you there! (For directions, call 407-246-2620 option 1)

**Executive Committee**

The next board meeting will be TBD. For more information contact Catherine Read. Members are welcome to attend.

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